

Recommended Walkability Improvements

Addendum to the 2019 Annual Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation

The CACT recognizes there are many opportunities throughout the City to improve walkability by addressing missing, obstructed, broken, and uneven sidewalks; steeply inclined curb cuts; and confusing signage.

The committee has chosen the following as the best opportunities for pedestrian improvements. This list targets streets and pathways providing access to commercial areas, schools, parks, and public buildings. There are many more opportunities on residential streets and these can be considered in a Citywide Sidewalk Policy.

- West Broad, 412 (Bedo's) – The utility pole and block wall severely narrow the sidewalk and make it difficult for wheelchairs and strollers to pass.
 - This was one of the most frequently mentioned problem sites in the 2017 Citizen Survey.
- Falls Avenue, 100 block east side – Recommend that the City acquire access and improve the gravel path between West End Park and Falls Avenue.
 - Some students walking and biking to GMHS/MEHMS take the W&OD Trail to West End Park.
 - A paved path in the park connects to a rough gravel path on the northern edge of the Mr. Tire parking lot. Students use the gravel path to reach Falls Avenue. They turn right, then left on Offut, left on Birch, right into the Giant parking lot, and then use the service driveway behind Giant.
 - This may be the safest and most convenient route to the schools that keeps students off West Broad.
- Howard Herman Park / Tiger Trail – About 100 yards past Broad Street, continuing through to the asphalt trail paralleling TJES, the gravel trail is uneven and puddles after rainfall. Recommend regrading and regravelling where needed.
- Walkway between North Washington and North Maple, 100 block. The CACT supports the idea of a painted walkway running the length of the parking area between these two streets.
 - The new walkway will provide an additional pedestrian option to access Mr. Brown's Park and businesses on West Broad and Park. It may also spur development of a pedestrian mall.
- West Broad, 900 block north side (St. James Church) - Utility poles and the retaining wall constrict the sidewalk.
- North Cherry, 100 block west side. Only this side of Cherry has a sidewalk. The first few hundred feet from Broad are severely obstructed by utility poles and guide wires.
 - People pushing strollers, dog walkers, and others are forced to walk in the street.
 - This sidewalk connects the improved Broad and Cherry pedestrian crossings and Jessie Thackery Preschool.
- Irving and Kent – No sidewalk on either street. These are the access to Berman Park.

- Randolph and Lynn – No sidewalk on either street. These are the access to Roberts Park.
- East Fairfax, 200 block north side – The sidewalk that accesses The Falls Church and its Preschool is significantly obstructed by utility poles and guide wires.
- North West, 200-600 blocks west side – No sidewalk. This heavily- trafficked street is used by students walking to TJES bus stops and to GMHS/MEHMS during rush hour.
- South Lee, 200 block – No sidewalk on either side of the street. This block is perpendicular to South Oak and used by students traveling to TJES.

In addition, the CACT encourages the City to pursue ***Walk-Friendly Community*** designation through the Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina. This national program requires a detailed assessment of the community's walkability and pedestrian safety policies and practices. A review team evaluates the strength of the applicant's walkability and advises on improvements. When successful, Falls Church would join Washington DC, Arlington, Alexandria, and Reston as local Walk-Friendly communities.